2. Project Summary

Pursuant to the requirements of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Strategic Opportunity Grant program under Proposition 84, the County of Placer is submitting a $45,000 Strategic Opportunity's grant to develop a *Low Impact Development Guidebook*. Total project cost is $85,000. Key project tasks for our Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant project are:

1. Low Impact Development Guidebook: Reducing Runoff Volume and Contamination in the Sierra Nevada Region
2. LID / Built Green Demonstration Projects
3. LID Workshop

Low Impact Development (LID) has been defined as an innovative storm water management approach with a basic principle that is modeled after nature: manage rainfall at the source using uniformly distributed decentralized micro-scale controls. The primary benefits of LID are:

1. To prevent degradation of water quality and natural resources,
2. To manage storm water more efficiently and cost effectively,
3. To protect groundwater and drinking water supplies, and
4. To help communities grow more attractively.

There are countless examples of jurisdictions that have proactively revised their development policies, codes, growth and management plans and implemented LID technologies to manage storm water at its source and collect rainwater for secondary use. Placer County's goal is to be one of the most progressive Foothill Sierra Nevada communities with respect to alternative storm water management. An LID Guidebook begins that process. Placer County will build upon the work initiated by the Sierra Nevada Alliance's land and water policy paper by implementing many of the strategies recommended in their plan.

Both the guidebook and pilot projects will address site planning strategies and techniques to re-examining the arrangement of buildings, roads, parking areas, site features, and storm water management plans. The guidebook will offer an innovative alternative approach to urban stormwater management that uniformly or strategically integrates stormwater controls into multifunctional landscape features where runoff can be micromanaged and controlled at the sources. With LID, every urban landscape or infrastructure feature (roof, streets, parking, sidewalks, and green space) can be designed to be multifunctional, incorporating detention, retention, filtration, or runoff use and water storage.

Our project will directly protect and improve water quality, reduce the risk of flooding, and indirectly protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical and living resources and enhance the public's use of public lands and waterways by improving water quality. In addition to achieving several SNC Program Goals, this project will contribute to the preservation of local watersheds and other natural resources, as required by Proposition 84.